prosecution in courts are major limitations before the forest officials in meeting the increasing challenge of poaching and illegal trade,

(d) The efforts made for protection of tiger and other wildlife in the country are:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) act, 1972.

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

Felling green trees in Delhi

†653. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that green trees have been cut for an office in Delhi where people are already struggling against the environment problem;

(a) whether Government would conduct any enquiry into this incident; and

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Forest Department of Delhi Government has intimated that as per the Delhi Tree Preservation Act, 1994 if felling of trees for developmental and other works is absolutely essential, the department concerned obtains necessary permission of the Forest and Wildlife Department. While permitting the felling of such trees, the agencies concerned are asked to plant 10 trees for one felled tree. However, if any case of illegal felling of trees is noticed legal action is taken as per rules,

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Task Force for Enhancing the Forest Cover

654. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:
Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Greening India Task Force was set up in 1998 by the Planning Commission, to enhance the Forest Cover to 33 per cent, at a cost of Rs. 48,000 crores; if so, the findings of the task force;

(b) whether the finance for this project was to be covered by Food for Work Scheme and 10 crore people were to be involved;

(c) whether half of the cost will be covered by the Food for Work Scheme and the balance was to be covered through Central and State Schemes; and

(d) if so, what is the progress of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Planning Commission had constituted a Task Force in August 1999 under the Chairmanship of Member, Planning Commission, to provide policy directives, legal support, equitable marketing system to agroforestry for sustainable agriculture, diversified production, thriving of forest based industry besides improving bio-drainage of the land and economy of farmers. Later the scope of the Task Force was broadened in August 2000 by the Planning Commission to cover 'Greening India' for enhancement of